

My name is Michelle Eigemann and I am the parent of a child who has experienced both seclusion and restraints. While there are a number of different situations I could highlight in this testimony there are a few that are still able to ignite the same feelings they did on the day they happened. Those are the moments I'd like to share with you today.

My son has social/emotional impairments as well as some cognitive delay. Aside from this he was also born with a condition called Prune Belly Syndrome. PBS is a lack of abdominal muscles along with some renal abnormalities that caused one of his kidney's to shut down and, what doctors refer to as an, Atonic bladder. Essentially this means that my son has to stick to a strict schedule of using the restroom. He is unable to feel the sensation to urinate until his bladder becomes extremely full and typically by this time he has no control and will end up having an accident.

On one particular day Clinton was placed in the isolation cube as a way to correct his "poor behavior" my son let his staff know many times that he needed to use the bathroom but they refused to let him out. This resulted in my son urinating in his pants. I wasn't notified of this incident until I asked my son why he came home wearing clothes that didn't belong to him. The school was made known of all of my son's special needs and knew that it was important for him to use the bathroom. Not only to prevent him from having accidents in his pants but also to protect him from having urinary tract infections which can lead to kidney infections that can be very hazardous to his one remaining kidney. When I addressed this incident with the staff they did not deny it but made no apologizes for the way they handled the situation.

Above I mentioned that my son has some social/emotional impairments to be more specific he has been said to have Pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified or PDD/NOS. This places my son on the high functioning end of the Autism spectrum. One of the

things that my son has difficulty with is being touched. He will tolerate a hug, a hand shake or a pleasant pat on the back for a job well done but when he is upset or having, what we refer to as, a meltdown touching him is not going to help him calm down. In fact this will only cause him to become enraged. I have learned this first hand and offered up this information to the staff at Edison Max on various different occasions.

The staff still proceeded to use restraints when Clinton would not immediately cooperate with what he was being asked to do. Initially my son began to fight back which resulted in the staff filing an assault complaint against him which we pled guilty to. Clinton was assigned probation and was instructed to report to a probation officer once a month. I explained the severity of the situation he was in and urged him to not fight the staff when restraints were being used.

This began a new season in our lives where my son would run out of the building and run down the street to get away from the staff when they attempted to restrain him. He was unfamiliar with his surrounding and on a number of occasions I was called at work and told that he left the building and that they had no idea which way he even ran.

After many months of this behavior and countless meetings between the staff and myself they decided to press incorrigibility charges against him. This time I decided it was time to hire an attorney and attempted to get Clinton placed in a school or program that was more suitable to meeting his needs.

Ultimately we were able to settle out of court but not before I filed due process against the Oakland country school district. I was able to get my son out of that situation and while my son's behavior was still challenging we no longer had to deal with the seclusion or restraints that were previously mentioned.

If I have due diligence correctly it looks as if both Jim Tedder and Christine Greig are representatives in Oakland County where these incidences took place. As I mentioned above this is the extremely condensed version of what was taking place on a daily basis to my son at the hands of Edison Max. I sincerely thank you for allowing these personal testimonies to be heard. I may not have experienced these events personally but I am standing here today as the voice of so many who have.